

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims**

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Claim 1 (currently amended): A presence management system suitable for use in a multiple access communications network; by watching parties and watched parties connected to the presence management system, said presence management system comprising:-

- (i) A first input arranged to receive notification requests from watching parties in use, each notification request being in respect of a watched party, and at least one of said parties comprising a plurality of individuals, wherein each of said individuals has a respective separate connection to the presence management system;
- (ii) A second input arranged to receive information about events occurring in said multiple access communications system ;
- (iii) A processor arranged such that in use, when information about an event relating to a particular watched party is received, any watching parties who made notification requests about that particular watched party, are notified about the event.

Claim 2 (original): A presence management system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said at least one party is a watching party.

Claim 3 (original): A presence management system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said at least one party is a watched party.

Claim 4 (original): A presence management system as claimed in claim 1 wherein at least one of said parties is an automated service.

Claim 5 (original): A presence management system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said at least one party comprising a plurality of individuals, is arranged to be modified by one individual only.

Claim 6 (original): A presence management system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said presence management system is further arranged to provide information about the geographical location of a watched party in use, on the basis of said received information about events that occur in said multiple access communications network.

Claim 7 (original): A presence management system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said presence management system is further arranged to provide information about the current activity of a watched party, on the basis of said received information about events that occur in said multiple access communications network.

Claim 8 (original): A presence management system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said presence management system is arranged to provide information about types of connection that a watched party is able to participate in.

Claim 9 (original): A presence management system as claimed in claim 1 which is arranged to provide information about a change in the availability of a group of watched parties, only when a threshold number of members of said group of individuals have undergone a change in availability.

Claim 10 (original): A presence management system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said store of watched party information comprises watched party connection preferences.

Claim 11 (original): A presence management system as claimed in claim 1 that is arranged to provide a connection address for that watched party.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A presence management system as claimed in claim 11 wherein said connection address is being only operable for a limited-predetermined time.

Claim 13 (original): A presence management system as claimed in claim 12 which is further arranged such that the request from the watching party is forwarded to the connection address provided, in such a way that the watching party has no access to that connection address.

Claim 14 (original): A presence management system as claimed in claim 1 and wherein a plurality of said events are initiated by watched parties and comprise a communication via said multiple access network.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A computer program stored on a computer readable medium, said computer program being adapted to control a presence management system, said presence management system being suitable for use in a multiple access communications network by watched parties and watching parties connected to the presence

management system, said computer program, being arranged to control said presence management system such that:-

- (i) notification requests are received from watching parties, each notification request being in respect of a watched party, and at least one of said parties comprising a plurality of individuals, wherein each of said individuals has a respective separate connection to the presence management system;
- (ii) information is received about events occurring in said multiple access communications system; and
- (iii) when information about an event relating to a particular watched party is received, any watching parties who made notification requests about that particular watched party, are notified about the event.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A multiple access communications network comprising a presence management system, for use by watching parties and watched parties connected to the presence management system, said presence management system comprising:-

- (i) A first input arranged to receive notification requests from watching parties in use, each notification request being in respect of a watched party, and at least one of said parties comprising a plurality of individuals wherein each of said individuals has a respective separate connection to the presence management system;
- (ii) A second input arranged to receive information about events occurring in said multiple access communications system ;
- (iii) A processor arranged such that in use, when information about an event relating to a particular watched party is received, any watching parties who made notification requests about that particular watched party, are notified about the event.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A method of operating a presence management system suitable for use in a multiple access communications network, said presence management system being for use by watching parties and watched parties connected to the presence management system, at least one of said parties comprising a plurality of individuals, wherein each of said individuals has a respective separate connection to the presence management system, said method comprising the steps of:-

- (i) receiving notification requests from watching parties in use, each notification request being in respect of a watched party;
- (ii) receiving information about events that occur in said multiple access communications network, said events relating to said watched parties; and

(iii) when information about an event relating to a particular watched party is received, notifying any watching parties who made notification requests about that particular watched party, about the event.